

LABOR AND CAPITAL

The Problem Expounded by
Rev. Mr. Sargent.

THE GOOD OF CO-OPERATION

How Labor and Capital May be Reconciled by the Golden Rule.

A Strong Address.

There was an audience of good size last Sunday evening at the Congregational church to hear the Rev. Ben F. Sargent on "Employers and Employees."

"Whatever ye would that others should do unto you, ye do even so unto them; for this is the law and the prophets. This injunction given by Jesus, the golden rule, must be the foundation of any permanent settlement of the problem of the relations of labor and capital," said the speaker in opening.

Men have been divided into employer and employee since the earliest times. It is a natural division, for some men have talents to plan, while others are better fitted to turn of larger amounts of work than others, and the planners naturally become the employers. No doubt this will continue always to be so. Neither class of men could take the place of the other successfully.

We are passing out of the age of steam into the age of electricity. All things are changing, and none more rapidly than the conditions of material life. Take, for instance, the matter of apprenticeship. There are many of you in this audience who know how things used to be in that respect, and you know how they are now.

It used to be that one man made the whole of a vehicle or utensil or machine, or nearly so; that every man looked forward to becoming a master workman and running a shop or business of his own where he learned his trade, or somewhere in the boundless unsettled country. The workman then put thought into his work, he took pride in it, he received praise for it, but now each man in a great factory does but a small part, but one turn, on a thing. His work is confined to one small act. He is largely but a tender to a machine. And these conditions do not tend to build up an independent manhood as did the old.

NOT AGAINST MACHINERY.

Do not misunderstand me, I am not against machinery. I believe in it. I believe that in the providence of God the time will come when machinery will almost entirely take the place of muscle. And we need not be afraid of that time if machinery is handled rightly, for we have found by experience that the more machines there are invented, the more work the more work there is to be done.

If we are to reach a better state of things, on the basis of the golden rule, there must be on the part of employers more extreme thought and care, in order that the man who is made more machine by the character of his work, but may be lifted up to a nobler and more manly state. Employers should have a care for the physical welfare of their workmen.

THIS IS NOT "FINISHERY."

Think what incalculable misery may come from the sickness, disabling or death of a father, or the supporting of a family. Employers should look after the social and mental welfare of their workmen. One way of doing this is to provide reading matter for the noon hour.

HERE COMES THE POINT.

It doesn't cost much to do that—\$50 a year will do it—and in its effect upon the happiness and efficiency of the workman it will more than pay the employer back. The employer has some responsibility and power over the moral life of his workmen. He can discriminate against the drinking man, the immoral man of any kind, whose immorality is known. He can refuse to employ such a man. He can make acquaintance with his employees, and take a helpful interest in whatever they are interested in. (The speaker instanced eminent business men with hundreds of employees who did this.)

A righteous scale of wages is an important factor in the relations between employer and employee, and may be made a means of promoting that good will which should exist between them.

NOT MUCH DANGER.

I think there is not much danger of the workman getting more than his due, and yet I have known of repeated instances where employers have been at fault or even lost to give work to their men and support to their families.

There are three forms of the wage system: Slavery, which happily has disappeared from this our land; the present competitive wage system; and the co-operative or profit sharing.

The present competitive wage system is in accordance with the prevailing political economy; but unfortunately the present political economy has no heart. It does not help men up. The only economy which can be called a good economy is embodied in the golden rule. There will, I think, always be wars and rumors of wars in industry so long as this competitive system of determining wages lasts.

WORKMEN'S DUTIES.

I believe in the formation of unions by workmen and by employers, for purposes of protection, education, communication; but when they attempt to force one another they are wrong, and can never succeed. A man has a right not to work for a certain sum, but he has no right to prevent others from working for it.

The employer has no more right than the worker to use force.

I believe the true wage system is that of profit sharing, by which the employee scores an interest in the business. It has been tried in England, France, Belgium, and in the United States, and has almost everywhere, where honestly tried and persisted in, proved a success in its moral influence on workman and on the relations between employer and employee.

Employer and workman would each learn much by changing places; let car driver and public, physician and patient, parishioner and preacher change places, and each will see things in a new light.

And no I again hold up to you the golden rule. If we would each and all take it into and apply it to our daily life how greatly would human life be bettered and human harmony and happiness be increased.

NATHAN REESE'S FALL.

Both Nathan and Nannie Reese were arrested for forgery yesterday by Police Smith. Nathan recently married a woman, and by contract and left him shortly before the expiration of the loan which he had obtained. He was arrested for forgery, and the woman was left with a large debt on her hands. Nathan Reese, who has been in the city for some time, was arrested for forgery, and the woman was left with a large debt on her hands.

At the Fair Grounds.

The probabilities are that a grand tug of war contest will take place at the fair grounds in the near future. The idea is to have the exhibition take place directly in front of the fair grounds, so that the occupying seats could witness the entire contest. One notice will be given through these columns as soon as the time is decided upon. In the meantime, about six or eight good teams are wanted, the captains of which may apply at the stage entrance to Barton opera house.

GOOD TEMPLARS.

Meeting of Fresno District Lodge at Central Colony.

Fresno district lodge I.O.G.T. convened at Central colony hall at 1 p.m. Friday, District Counselor W. P. Bowen and presiding officers present and D.S., D.M., and D.C.

Protem appointments: H. G. Livermore, 243, D.V.T.; D.G., William Farrow, 266; B. H. Hoag, 305, P.D.T.

Opened in the subordinate degree. On motion the conferring of the district degree was made special order for 4:30.

Credentialed committee reported as follows:

Lodges	Mem.	Dal.
Sanger, No. 228	92	9
Eden, No. 243	31	3
Reedley, No. 251	45	7
Central Colony, No. 252	42	4
Oleander, No. 271	42	4
Triumph, No. 303	50	5
Fresno, No. 300	51	5
Fowler, No. 555	39	3

Rebo lodge, 253, and Yosemite, 235, did not report or send delegates. Sanger Band of Hope reported 48 members, of whom 8 were adults. Fresno Band of Hope has 111 members, 40 adults.

The D.S. reported having attended four special sessions of the district lodge for conferring the district lodge degree. The committee on resolution, appointed by the chair for the session, were William Harvey of 409, Miss Nellie Row and John Draper of 305, Fowler.

There being found in waiting several brothers and sisters entitled to receive the district lodge degree they were introduced and duly initiated, P.D.T., B. H. Hoag presiding by request.

Recess to 8 a.m. Saturday.

Second day.

District Templar M. B. Harris presiding, and all other officers same as yesterday except the district secretary, who was absent.

The time and place of next meeting was next in order, and Mrs. H. G. Livermore, 243, nominated Kingsburg. There being no other place nominated Kingsburg was declared to be the next place of meeting; time, May 7 and 8, commencing with an open meeting on Friday evening and a closed session all day Saturday.

The resolution committee offered the following:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the great political parties (irrespective of party politics) to legislate for the suppression of the liquor traffic, and that all Good Templars should endeavor to influence their own political parties to this end.

The following amendment was adopted:

And furthermore, we believe that in case it is found impossible to change those that advocate high license to the friends of prohibition, then it is the duty of all Good Templars to vote with whichever party they believe best represents this policy.

RECESS TO DINNER.

W. B. Livermore, 243, moved that we have a picnic upon the banks of Kings river on Friday, May 7, and that Eden lodge have charge of the same. Carried.

On motion a warrant was ordered drawn for \$15 for the grand lecture fund, good or the order.

Resolution, Miss Annie Farwell, 266. Address, Mrs. A. B. McArthur, 271. Song, Miss Rose Farrow, 266. Reading, Mrs. A. C. Cuckland, 271. Resolution, Miss Lucy Fairweather, 257.

Final solo, Miss Mable Gaine, 303. Resolution, Dr. G. B. McIntosh, 292. Resolved, That this district lodge by a rising vote extend our thanks to the members of Triumphant lodge for the hospitable manner in which they have received and entertained the district lodge.

Unanimously carried. G. B. McIntosh, District Secretary.

THE MIDDLEMAN.

ANOTHER OF HIS CUNNING TRICKS LAIN BARE.

He Predicts a Crop Before the Seed Has Been Sown—Good Advice to Growers.

To the Editor of The Republican.

I notice some of the papers of our valley are beginning the same old style of advertising, viz: Before the fruit is even set on our orchards, or the first leaf has sprouted on our vines, they begin to harp on the immense crops in store for us the coming season. This crop, they tell us, will average anywhere from 25 to 100 per cent above the crop of the past season. Now I protest against any such advertising. It is any wonder that the eastern fruit dealers make capital out of such statements, and hold out to us that the enormous crops in view in our great valley is enough to overstock the markets of the world?

I hope that our Fresno county papers will use some judgment in this direction during the coming season, and that they will not let the actual results of our vineyards be approximately estimated, for in my judgment the continuous bragging of our papers, setting forth the magnitude of our prospective crops, tends to retard the prices of our orchard and vineyard products.

Will not our county papers consider this matter, and handle it judiciously the coming season, and rather let us wait until the results from our labors are in, and then we can safely tell of the woods, we may grow.

ALEXANDER GORDON.

Fresno, March 14.

The foregoing remarks are not only sensible, but apt. Except in the foothill regions where there are very few vines, not a leaf has sprouted in the Fresno vineyards. Nothing is visible to the naked eye but the black marbled stumps of the vines, hence the magnitude of the coming crop cannot be discerned even by the aid of a microscope. Bragging has hurt Fresno county worse than the vineyarder. Raisins that were bought at the packing houses in this city last fall for 1 cent a pound are now selling in the east at from 12 to 15 cents. Another thing must be taken into consideration. A good deal of the best vineyard land has been planted in springing vines, and the vines will not bear fruit for four or five years hence. Another large acreage that would have been planted in raisins but for the low prices last fall whereby the middlemen became wealthy is now being planted in alfalfa. The 100,000 of the vineyard variety, and in springing vines and other crops.

It is natural that the lawyer should be the victim of the vineyarder's bragging. As on the former trial the expert for the plaintiff and defendant's expert entirely disagreed, so the geologists of the deed.

W. R. Jacobs and Frank H. Short argued the case for the defendant, and G. C. McArthur and N. C. Caldwell for the plaintiff.

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Armenia was a free country about five hundred years ago, but it is now under the rule of three different powers, each of which governs a part of it. Turkey governs a part of Armenia containing about a million and a half souls. Russia has the same number of Armenians in another part and Persia has about as many more.

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